


ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1949



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Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. F. T. Lee (Chairman).

Messrs. A. Clipstone, S. B. Kimbell, T. Nichols and F. J. W. West.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

Public Health Department,
75, London Road,
Kettering.
July, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District for 1949.

From the statistics available the health of the district appears to be very satisfactory.

During the year the water undertaking passed over to the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector who is responsible for the report included in Sections C, D and E.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Area (acres)	3638	3638	3638	3638	3638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4408	4629	4747	4685	4677
Number of Live Births	83	103	91	72	75
Legitimate	69	96	85	69	73
Illegitimate	14	7	6	3	2
Birthrate per 1,000 population ...	18.82	22.25	19.17	15.36	16.03
Number of Still Births	1	3	—	2	1
Legitimate	1	3	—	2	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.90	28.30	—	27.02	13.15
Rate per 1,000 population	0.22	0.64	—	0.42	0.21
Number of Deaths	70	54	51	76	54
Death rate per 1,000 population (Corrected) for 1949.	15.88	11.66	10.74	14.08	9.8
Total Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	60.24	29.12	21.97	27.77	40.00
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	1	5	1
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	1	3	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9	9	4	9	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1949

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute polio- myelitis and polio- encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year	
England and Wales	16.7	0.39	11.7	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.45	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.51	3.0	32	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.7	0.47	12.5	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.52	0.15	0.00	0.02	0.56	3.8	37	
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000— 50,000	18.0	0.40	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.42	0.14	—	0.02	0.49	2.4	30	
London	18.5	0.37	12.2	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.52	0.11	—	0.01	0.59	1.7	29	
Rothwell														
Urban District	16.03	0.21	9.8	—	—	—	0.21	0.85	—	—	0.21	—	40.00	
The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales per 1,000 total births														
The Maternal Mortality rates for Rothwell Urban Dist.														
				Abortion with Sepsis		Abortion without sepsis		Puerperal infections		Others		Total		
				0.11		0.05		0.11		0.71		0.98		
				nil		nil		nil		nil		nil		
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SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,677
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to	
Rate Books	1,497
Rateable Value	£19,693
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£74

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—

Boot and Shoe manufacture, ironstone mining and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year:

LIVE BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	73	36	37
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1	1
Totals				<hr/> 75 <hr/>	<hr/> 37 <hr/>	<hr/> 38 <hr/>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.03

STILL BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				1	—	1

DEATHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				54	30	24

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.8

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	—

Death-rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	40.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	41.09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	7

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1949 was 0.85. No comparability figures have been issued since 1940. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1949 was 11.54 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.85 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death rate of 9.8. This death rate of 9.8 is the rate which it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for the year 1949, together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1949

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	16.03
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	16.7

Infantile Mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1949.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	40.00
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	32.00

The causes of death in children under one year with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
17 hours	M.	Atelectasis.
2 months	M.	Broncho pneumonia.
8 months	F.	Influenzal meningitis.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	30	24	54
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8 Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12 Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13 Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
15 Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
16 Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
17 Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
20 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
22 Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
25 Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
26 Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

27	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
30	Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
31	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
32	All other causes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined :— 1949

Throat Swabs	...	...	...	...	5
Blood	...	...	...	...	—
Faeces	...	...	...	...	5
Urine	...	...	...	...	—
Sputum	...	...	...	...	—

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulance services from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—From the 5th July, 1948 the County Council became responsible for Home Nursing services. Details of the work carried out during 1949 is as follows :—

<i>Cases Nursed</i>			<i>Total</i>
General	Midwifery	Maternity	<i>Visits</i>
160	33	12	2,555

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A medical officer attends one session each month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases passed to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from nine months to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1949 is as follows :

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	27
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	0
Total	...	...	...	...	27

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation since the beginning of the scheme is as follows :—

Age at 31-12-49	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in year	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Number immunised	1	25	39	57	49

Estimated mid-year population 1949, 401

Age at 31-12-49	5 to 9	10 to 14
i.e. Born in year	1940-1944	1935-1939
Number immunised	287	314

Estimated mid-year population 1949, 575

The above figures do not include those children immunised by private arrangement.

The number of children who received a reinforcing injection of Diphtheria prophylactic during the year was 8.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—The heavy rains of October 1948 gave an abundant and assured supply from the springs during the winter and early summer, which was supplemented by good rains during May. It is interesting to note that although 3.23 inches of rain fell between the 4th and 17th July, the flow diminished so rapidly that the Northampton supply had to be turned on eight days later, the 25th July, and used up to the 20th October.

Rainfall.—The rainfall of 23.72 inches during 1949 was less than the previous year but slightly above the average over the past ten years, viz :—

1949	...	23.72 ins.	1944	...	21.94 ins.
1948	...	28.77 „	1943	...	19.24 „
1947	...	21.21 „	1942	...	20.51 „
1946	...	25.94 „	1941	...	25.80 „
1945	...	20.83 „	1940	...	24.13 „

Water Analysis.—Three samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacterial examination, and all three samples were stated in the Bacteriologist's report to be "Very Satisfactory."

New Services.—16 new services were connected to the mains during the year, 5 to farms, 7 to private dwelling houses, and 4 to Council Houses.

Yield of Water, Main Source, and Consumption.—The total yield of water from the main source was 60,527,150 gallons and the total consumption was 32,150,750 gallons, so that with adequate storage facilities this supply would have been ample. The extensive collection and use of rain water in the district has a marked bearing on the town's water consumed, in that when the flow of main source water is at its lowest the rain water wells are drying up and consequently more town's supply is used.

TABLE OF YIELD AND CONSUMPTION

			<i>Yield—Main Source</i>	<i>Consumption</i>
January	...	...	9,083,000 gallons	2,600,500 gallons
February	...	...	6,308,035 ,,	2,461,000 ,,
March	...	...	7,225,000 ,,	2,838,000 ,,
April	...	...	6,180,000 ,,	2,926,000 ,,
May	...	...	3,844,000 ,,	2,893,000 ,,
June	...	...	3,321,000 ,,	3,320,000 ,,
July	...	...	2,805,000 ,,	2,695,000 ,,
August	...	...	2,314,005 ,,	2,354,000 ,,
September	...	...	1,793,550 ,,	1,993,750 ,,
October	...	...	2,684,415 ,,	2,266,000 ,,
November	...	...	6,351,000 ,,	2,788,500 ,,
December	...	...	8,618,000 ,,	2,937,000 ,,
			60,527,150 ,,	32,150,750 ,,

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewers.—No extensions have been made to the sewerage system during the year, but several breakages have occurred in the main sewer from the Stanley Street area, due entirely to part of this sewer being above ground, causing a loss of anchorage during storm periods.

Sewage Disposal Works.—Except for the undermentioned items the Sewage Purification Plant has continued to operate satisfactorily giving a consistently clear final effluent.

(1) An obstruction of the sludge gravitation main occurred which necessitated breaking open the main owing to there being no access for cleaning purposes. This defect was rectified by constructing an inspection chamber at the head of the main which can now be easily cleared of obstructions.

(2) The increase in the amount of sewage received at the works due to the larger number of houses, water flush closets and bathrooms in the town with the larger amount of sludge to be dealt with is causing difficulty in the efficient operation of the works.

It is essential to dry out this wet sludge on "drying beds" before it can be handled economically and dug out and used for manurial purposes. The area of sludge drying beds is so inadequate that the sludge never really dries out to a spadeable product and remains in its wet state during the drying season, which is May to September, but has to be removed from the beds for winter sludge pumping. The provision of a new sludge drying lagoon similar to the existing lagoon, 24 yards by 8 yards has been recommended by the Public Health Committee for construction during the next summer. This new lagoon will be a useful addition to the plant and will go a long way towards if not entirely solving the sludge drying problem.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	391
Nuisances inspected	...	...	...	...	...	169
Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	...	220
Factory inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
Carcases and offals of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	173
Cowsheds and dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	60
Rat infestations	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food shops inspected	...	...	...	...	...	25
Food warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	67
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	175
Housing Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	225

Number of Notices served

INFORMAL	Dustbins	...	...	...	...	30
	Nuisances	...	...	...	...	14
Statutory	Nil.					

Public Cleansing.—The Karrier Bantam refuse collecting vehicle continues to give efficient service and has kept in good mechanical order during the year.

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained except during two weeks holidays. There are approximately 1,500 refuse bins in use in the district and these are emptied in $4\frac{1}{2}$ days, the refuse vehicle and the workmen collecting waste paper from factories and shops on the remaining half-day.

Salvage Collection.—The amount of waste paper collected during the year was slightly less than the previous year, but remains fairly good.

Many Local Authorities have discontinued waste paper collections owing to the reduced price and the difficulty in selling this material, but it is far better to salvage this important raw material even at a loss than to discourage the public who are “salvage conscious” and to pay for its disposal in the refuse tip where it causes a nuisance by burning or being blown about the site and causing untidiness.

The price of mixed waste paper was reduced as from 1st October, 1949, but this reduction was not noticed for that year, however, with the income for 1949 being steady at £337 there was a profit shown on the service.

		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1946	...	33	4	2
1947	...	22	18	—
1948	...	52	9	1
1949	...	51	15	1

Rodent Control.—The number of Rat Infestations dealt with during the year by your Rodent Operator was 14 from which a total number of 15 bodies was found, and many more would be accounted

which had died underground. Follow up treatment was carried out by test baiting about a week after poisoning and in no case was any bait taken. Nearly all infestations were confined to pig-sties and poultry runs where food is available. The treatment of 38 manholes on the Sewerage system gave evidence of infestations of Rats in 6 only, these were baited and poisoned but no bodies were found.

Public Swimming Bath.—A good swimming season was enjoyed due to the long, bright, warm summer and the more attractive bath water. Town's water was used and chlorinated daily, and from many Orthotolidine tests made an average residual chlorine content of 1 part per million was maintained. The bath water was changed fortnightly during the season to keep it fresh and clean. A sample of bath water taken on the 15th July which had been in use for seven days, was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service who reported that its bacteriological condition was "Very Satisfactory."

Between the 13th June and 20th September, the following bather^s attended the bath:—

Boys	1697	Girls	1494	
Men	814	Women	286	Total 4,291

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and Foods.—It is very gratifying to note that of the 173 carcasses and offals of cottagers pigs examined, no carcase or organs were affected with any Tuberculosis or similar disease which would have rendered the pork unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs being found unfit for human consumption were surrendered and destroyed.

Bacon	10 lbs.	Canned Fish	5 lbs.
Cheese	12 lbs.	Canned Fruit	18 lbs.
Canned Meat	19 lbs.	Canned Vegetables	39 lbs.
		Canned Milk	68 lbs.

Milk and Dairies.—67 samples of milk were taken during the year and examined for keeping quality and by the Methylene Blue reduction test resulting in the following reports:—

Satisfactory	50	
Moderate	11	
Bad	6	Total 67

The 12 Cowsheds and Dairies were visited on 60 occasions and all faults found in cleanliness and method of production were raised and discussed with the producer.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.—As from the 1st October, 1949, the regulation affecting the production of milk on farms previously the responsibility of Local Authorities was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, so that from the above date this Authority is only concerned with the regulations affecting the sale of milk in this area.

Inspection of Factories was carried out on 22 occasions, 7 defects were ascertained and all of these were remedied by the end of the year.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

Typhoid Fever.—A boy aged 12 years developed Typhoid Fever. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital and recovered. The causal factor of the disease was unknown and all contacts remained free from the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One case occurred in a girl aged 17 months. As the child was notified from the Kettering General Hospital to the Medical Officer of Health of Kettering Borough it was not included in the return for Rothwell District.

The incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough remained low throughout the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1949.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Two cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1949

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Measles ...	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	7
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	5	1	—	—	—	22

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1949

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	1	3	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	1	3	4	2	6	2	—	—	—	1	1	22	6	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1949.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	1	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	1	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1949.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—

